

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUCAR 05927 250856Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5927

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: US RO CH VM
SUBJECT: CHINESE AMBASSADOR SAYS CARTER'S COMMENT PLEASED
HUA; VIETNAMESE UNUSUALLY CORDIAL

1. AT ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION EVENING OF AUGUST 22, CHINESE AMBASSADOR LI TIN-CHUAN WALKED ACROSS THE ROOM WITH INTERPRETER TO GREET ME. HE SAID I SHOULD KNOW THAT CHAIRMAN HUA'S "HEART WAS WARMED" BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMENTS ON THE VISIT TO BUCHAREST. FOR HIS OWN PART, LI CONTINUED, HE HOPED OUR TWO COUNTRIES WOULD MOVE MORE RAPIDLY TOWARDS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. THIS HE FELT WAS THE WISH OF CHINA'S 900 MILLION HEARS AND OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TOO. I THANKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS COMMENTS AND ASSURED HIM THAT THE QUESTION OF NORMALIZATION WAS AN IMPORTANT MATTER FOR THE USG. AFTER A TWO-HAND SHAKE, HE BOWED COURTEOUSLY AND GLIDED AWAY.

2. LATER, AS I WALKED INTO THE HALLWAY TO GET SOME AIR, THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR STOPPED ME TO SAY THAT HE HAD JUST LEARNED THAT I SPOKE FRENCH. THIS WAS GOOD BECAUSE, SOONER OR LATER, OUR COUNTRIES WOULD RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE PERSONALLY HAD MUCH RESPECT FOR THE U.S. AND FELT THAT VIETNAM NEEDED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.
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HE LOOKED FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW ME BETTER. I SAID YES, SOONER OR LATER, SHOOK HIS HAND AND CONTINUED MY PROMENADE.

3. COMMENT: THE COSMETICS OF HAVING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. ARE IMPORTANT IN THIS CROSSROADS CAPITAL, AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS CAREFULLY MONITORS WHAT THEY

CONSIDER NUANCES OF CHANGES IN RELATIONS. I BELIEVE THE
CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE PUBLIC GESTURES WERE MADE WITH
THIS IN MIND.
AGGREY

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